[3rd March 1955

Admission to Government and Government Aided Colleges in the State.

* 219 ª Q.—Sri M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of students belonging to the backward communities who were admitted during the years 1953–54 and 1954–55 in Government and Government aided colleges in the State; and

(*b*) whether the students belonging to the backward communities are given any special consideration in the matter of admission to Government and Government aided colleges and hostels?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The information is not readily available and it is considered that the time and labour involved in collecting the particulars may not be commensurate with the public purpose to be served.

" (*b*) 25 per cent of the seats in the Government Arts and Professional colleges are reserved for candidates belonging to backward classes other than Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The number of the students belonging to the above categories who are admitted on the basis of merit is not counted against the quota reserved for them. Though this reservation does not strictly apply to non-Government colleges, the managements of such aided colleges have been requested and they are expected to extend their fullest co-operation in the matter of encouraging the higher education of these backward classes consistently with the attitude adopted by the Government in respect of admissions to Government colleges. There is no specific reservation made for the backward classes in regard to admission to hostels."

Sri A. M. ALLAPICHAI :—" May I ask, Sir, whether all this reservation has to be made merely because we do not have a sufficient number of colleges? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It will take a long time to have a sufficient number of colleges to admit all the students who are prepared to go to the University class."

Sri A. M. ALLAPICHAI :—" Will it be possible at least in the course of a few years for the Government to bring into existence a large number of colleges so that this problem may not at all arise and give us trouble? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" With reference to arts colleges it may be possible. But with reference to professional colleges, the number has to be limited. It has to be limited to the requirements of the country, in which case there is bound to be competition for admission into these professional colleges."

ªQuestion postponed from the list of questions for 2nd March 1955.